



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND TRANSPORTATION

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director

March 21, 2006

TO: Michael Knapp, Councilmember
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director
Department of Public Works and Transportation

SUBJECT: District 2 Issues/Project Status

The following is an update on various projects and issues that you have requested over the past few months.

- Black Rock Road – Highway Services is aware of the problems on this road. All repairs have recently been made, but unfortunately may not address the underlying source of the community's complaints. This is a very old substandard road that is increasingly being used by commuter traffic, school buses, etc. It is barely wide enough to for two vehicles to pass; it has many spring heads, no drainage system, and a failing pavement surface. Reconstruction of the road to current county standards would be needed and this is outside the scope of our highway maintenance program. We will continue to provide routine maintenance and make minor improvements as needed.
- Brookeville Road and Reedy Branch – Highway Services has initiated a service request for a crew to dress up the shoulders and pick up debris. In addition, we are planning to install a new box culvert under Brookville Road that will remedy the flooding problem. We are currently involved in ordering the box culvert and expect that the work will commence this spring/summer.
- Cashell Road at Cherry Valley Drive – The traffic study for this intersection, which included investigation of school safety issues in the area, was completed in late 2005. A copy of that study and our January 2006 response to the community is attached for your information. We concluded that a four way stop was not justified at the intersection of Cashell and Cherry Valley. The community was advised that all way stop controls were inappropriate traffic controls for addressing speeding concerns, and they were referred to our speed hump program for their further consideration. To date, it does not appear that the community has made a request to pursue speed humps.



Office of the Director

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Located one block west of the Rockville Metro Station

- Cherry Valley Drive and Moss Side Lane – Staff in our Division of Operations has field reviewed the location, and is evaluating the possibility of restricting parking along the west side of Moss Side Lane, between Cherry Valley Drive and the entrance to the townhouses. We expect to complete our review and decisions by the end of April 2006.
- Cinnamon Drive, Stop Signs for feeder streets – A traffic study will be conducted for Cinnamon Drive to determine the need for stop controls for all intersecting streets. We expect that the study will be conducted summer 2006.
- Clubhouse Road and Watkins Mill Road – Design of the new traffic signal has been initiated and we expect to have the signal operational by the start of the 2006/2007 school year. An All Way Stop control was implemented as an interim measure on March 8, 2006.
- Evangeline Lane/MacDuff Avenue/Thorncroft Terrace – These roads were last resurfaced in approximately 1993. Based on current program funding and cycle for repaving, the earliest timeframe for these roads to be addressed again is 2008.
- Falls Road, Falls Chapel Way at Tuckerman Lane – We have reviewed the signal timings at this intersection and have found that the intersection is operating appropriately. Current signal timings provide for approximately 8 seconds of green time to the northbound and southbound Falls Road left turn movements in the morning peak period.
- Forest Brook Road at Pike View Drive – A traffic study will be conducted to review the need to improve sight lines at this intersection. We will advise you of our findings when complete.
- Founders Way Sidewalk connection to Damascus Regional Park – This same sidewalk request was made by Mr. Tom Gillard in 2004. The Division of Capital Development (DCD) investigated this request and determined that construction of the school site and other future development would likely address this request, and determined that they should defer action at that time. DCD will review current standing of those projects to see if a temporary solution is needed and advise your office. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Rick Earp of DCD at x-77272.
- Hopkins Road and Kingsview Road – The traffic study for this location was completed in April 2005. All way stop controls were not justified. Additional parking restrictions along Hopkins Road were implemented to improve motorists' ability to access Hopkins Road from Kingsview Road and Lark Song Drive.

- Jerusalem Road – Highway Services has inspected the culverts and roadway. We are aware that the storm water will overtop the road on occasion. The culverts are clear of debris. A project to replace the culvert and headwalls to increase capacity is scheduled for summer 2006.
- Lewisberry Drive tree trimming and Montgomery Village street light outages – Please see the attached response to Mr. and Mrs. Wahiba regarding the status of these issues.
- Partnership Road at Sugarland Road – This intersection will be further evaluated as part of our FY06 Intersection and Spot Improvement CIP project, along with 19 other intersections throughout the county. We anticipate the study recommendations being finalized before July 1, 2006. Any additional recommendations developed for this intersection will be discussed/coordinated with the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.
- Pettit Way/Pettit Court - Highway Services chip sealed these roads last fall and a recent inspection reveals that they are in good repair except for one location. At that location, there is some erosion and pavement edge failure. Highway Services will make repairs this spring.
- Prices Distillery Road – John DiGiovanni, Chief of the Highway Services Section, met with Mrs. Chris McDermott in January 2006 on site. Mrs. McDermott stated that she is the spokesperson for others who live along the stretch of Prices Distillery north and west of Clarksburg Road. Even though developers are ultimately responsible for larger scale damages to the existing roads, Highway Services will work with the residents to identify specific area and spot damages to repair, within reason and available resources. Subsequent discussions with the community will occur this spring to start the identification and repairs.

Highway services recently reconstructed a short piece of asphalt curb opposite of Mrs. McDermott's property that was damaged by the haulers. There are no plans to install additional curbing.

- Prince Philip Drive – The traffic study has been complete, and as a result, we are in the process of legalizing additional parking controls to designate corner clearances at the intersections of Menden Farm and Benton Square and at Menden Farm and Prince Philip. We expect that the parking signs will be installed within the next 30 days.
- Rocky Road – Signs and supplemental markers to alert motorists of possible farm equipment using the roadway were installed in December 2005.

- Rocky Road dumping – I appreciate your acknowledgement of the clean-up efforts that our crews have made on Rocky Road. The underlying issue appears that it would be best addressed by law enforcement or some other County agency that has enforcement powers, such as DHCA, DEP or DPS.
- Skylark Road – Construction on Skylark Road resumed the week of 3/13/06. Static signs and Variable Message Signs were installed in advance to notify the public of the pending closure. Everyone (DPWT, DPS, developers, etc) understands the road must be reopened before June 1, 2006, in order for Stringtown Road construction to begin. Any work on Skylark Road not completed prior to June 1 will be deferred until after Stringtown Road is reopened. This plan was developed to ensure that Skylark and Stringtown are not closed simultaneously.
- Spire Street – Special speed limit signs were installed on northbound and southbound Spire Street to call attention to the existing speed limit. Additionally, a trailblazing sign was installed on westbound Clarksburg Road at Spire Street to encourage motorists to continue on Clarksburg Road to access MD 355.
- Stringtown Road traffic volume and speed – Stringtown Road is a master plan arterial roadway west of Snowden Farm Parkway to I-270. East of Snowden Farm Parkway, the road is classified as a Rustic Road. DPWT recently implemented No Through Truck restrictions for the rustic portion of Stringtown Road. However, there essentially is not a viable way to control volumes on this type of roadway.

We conducted a cursory review of Stringtown Road in the area of Fountain View and concluded that installation of additional stop signs in this section is not appropriate. Stop signs are not installed for the sole purpose of controlling vehicle speeds, and none of the intersecting roadways (Kingsley Rd and Needle Drive) appear that they would meet the justification criteria for all way stop controls.

The rustic portion of Stringtown is currently posted at 30 MPH, whereas the arterial portion is currently posted at 40 MPH. The reconstruction and widening of the arterial section is expected to begin in June 2006. As the alignment and character of the arterial portion will be changing significantly, we do not feel that any changes to the existing speed limit should be considered until such time that the pending road changes are complete.

- Sweepstakes Development – Highway Services will inspect these roads and make proper repairs late this spring or early summer.

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- Thundercloud Road at Bubbling Spring – This intersection was evaluated in 2002 as part of the implementation of traffic controls on the streets in this neighborhood, and we concluded that all-way stop control was not necessary. Stop signs are not installed for the purpose of controlling speeds, as they are proven to be ineffective in achieving that objective. The County has a traffic calming program to address the issues of speeding on neighborhood streets. Information on this program is available on the DPWT pages of the County's website.
- Waters House Signage – Directional signs for Waters House were coordinated with Peggy Erickson of the Historical Society and were installed on northbound Observation Drive on February 7, 2006.
- Woodcliffe Estates Streetlights - All reported outages that existed as of fall 2005 in the Woodcliffe Estates community have been resolved. Based on the time elapsed since your request, we will conduct a nighttime field check of street lights in this community and follow-up with any noted outages as appropriate.
- Wynnfield Avenue and Wild Cherry Lane Street Lights – We will schedule a nighttime field check of these streets and will follow-up with repairs as needed.

I trust this information is responsive to your request. If you need to discuss these issues in greater detail, please feel free to contact myself or Al Roshdieh, Chief of our Division of Operations, at 240-777-6000.

AH/tm

Enclosures